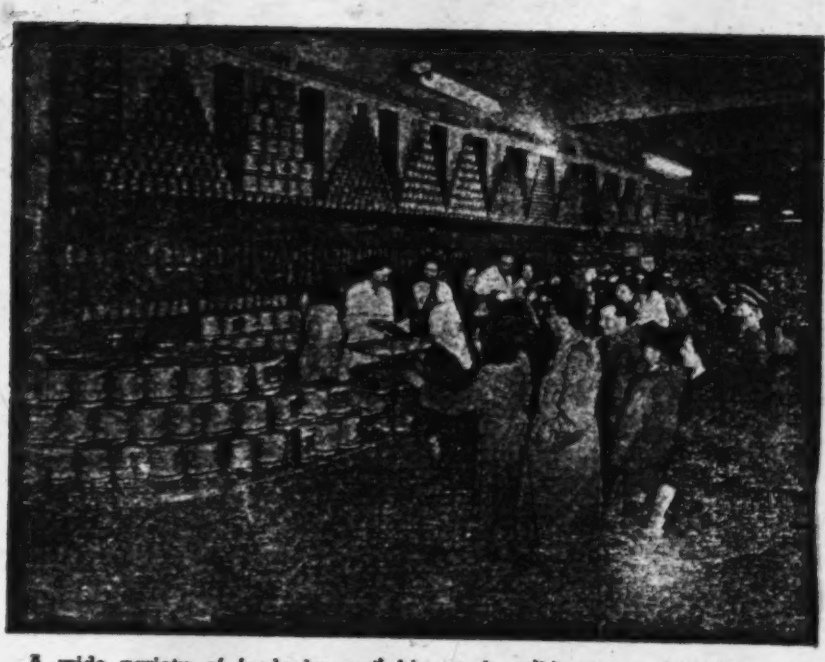
9: Eppstein 3-4 (no date) 1945 EC1 Hungary EC1

those villagers who are not the tenants or dependents of the landlord. Outside the 'big house' probably only the priest's and the schoolmaster's houses stand out a little from the rest. Even a big village may have no shop; the villagers buy what they need on their weekly visit to the local market town. There is, probably, an inn, but it is not much frequented, since each family makes its own wine. By day, during most of the year, the street is almost deserted; all the men are out in the fields, perhaps miles away. They come home in the evening, when the animals also are driven in, and for half an hour the whole place wakes up. Later, men and women sit on benches outside their doors, or in the street, under the acacias, smoking and talking. On Sunday they sit there all day, except when they are in the church.

It is a hard, monotonous life. It is monotonous even for the inhabitants of the 'big house', who are usually much poorer than they let anyone guess and often spend their lives with no bigger distraction than a little shooting or a drive over the bumpy mud roads to visit a neighbour, who is most likely also a cousin or a brother-in-law, five miles away. For the peasants, a wedding, a religious procession or a harvest festival are the great events of the year. A hard life, but not without its own charm. Few people know the Hungarian countryside. But if they do penetrate there, they will be received by landlord or by peasant, with much kindness and hospitality, and with the perfect courtesy and unfailing dignity which is equally the mark of the Hungarian gentleman and of the most ragged, barefooted Hungarian peasant.



A wide variety of foods is available at the state store which is open day and night. This is where Mrs. Gergely does her shopping.

which have taken the place of the old, dim gas lamps. In the past a miserable grocer eking out a dreary existence in a dark basement shop and a smoke-filled pub represented commercial life in the street; today brand-new stores with brilliant show-windows line the street, and the housewives can do all their shopping within a range of two hundred yards. The new district clinic of the social security institute under the management of the trade unions was recently opened in the next street, and the entire next block is taken up by the new school. There are two movies just around the corner, and the nearest theater is not more than ten minutes from there. The district inhabited by the Gergely family and twenty to thirty thousand other Hungarian families is no longer one of which the capital need be ashamed but has become one of its flourishing, lively, healthy quarters.

And, to come back to the Gergely family, if they should

[i.e. in District XIII, Budapest -- Analyst]